

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 36 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the claims and drawings to simply overcome the Examiner's objections. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant(s) have attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. Pursuant to paragraph one of the Office Action, the drawings have been corrected to include the legend --PRIOR ART-- in Figures 1 through 4. Replacement sheets including revised Figures 1 through 4 have been provided herewith.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-7, 10-16, 19-25 and 28-34 have been allowed. Claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 26, 27, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. However, the Examiner states that claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 26, 27, 35 and 36 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejection for failing to provide antecedent basis. Applicants have addressed the antecedent basis errors in these claims by way of an Examiner's Amendment agreed to during a telephone conference between Examiner Kamen and the undersigned on January 4, 2005. Accordingly, claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 26, 27, 35 and 36 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: JAN. 4, 2005

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